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"SCREENINGS"

A radio talk prepared by E. J. Rowell, Radio Specialist, Washington, D. C., and delivered by C. R. Briggs, Western Radio Program Director, over KGO and associated stations of the Pacific Coast Blue Network, National Broadcasting Company.

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In our considerations of screenings under the new Federal Seed Act let's see first what screenings are. As defined by the law screenings include chaff, immature seed, weed seed, or other material that is removed from seed in any cleaning or processing operation, and all or any of these will be classed as screenings if they contain less than 25 percent of live agricultural or vegetable seeds.

Now that we know what screenings are we might see what has been done with them in the past. In large part they have been used for feed; they have been ground up and made a part of regular ground feeds for different classes of animals. But a small part of them have been used to mix with seed that is good enough for planting purposes. Of course after mixing the seed had a good deal more bulk. In a few cases it has been found that the screenings themselves have been sold for planting purposes.

That is what screenings have been used for in the past. Now under the new Federal Seed Act what may the screenings that are moved in interstate commerce be used for?

In general we can say that they may be used only for processing into feedstuffs or other products. I think we all realize as objectionable the mixing of chaff, immature seed and weed seed with perfectly good seed; or the sale of these materials as good seed.

If the screenings may be used in feed stuffs then of course they may be moved in interstate commerce. But when they are moved in interstate commerce they must be plainly marked. If the screenings are in sacks then each sack must be marked, the wording must show plainly that the screenings are shipped for processing and the information must be stated in 18 point type, (that means type about 3/8 inch high.) or a similar declaration must be made on the invoice.

That is the law as it applies to the screenings that originate in this country.

Naturally it is a privilege of this country to say what screenings may be brought into this country from foreign countries. Only these are permitted, wheat, oats, rye, barley, buckwheat, field corn, sorghum, broomcorn, flax, millet, Proso millet, soybeans, field peas, and field beans. And of course the provisions of the law which say that screenings may be used only for processing apply to these imported ones.

One provision of the law that will particularly interest the West where some of the finest lawn grasses are grown is the prohibition of interstate shipment of chaff for the purpose of mixing it with lawn grass.

To summarize the provisions of the law: screenings are the materials containing less than 25 percent of live seed which are removed from agricultural or vegetable seeds.

These may be shipped in interstate commerce only when they are used for processing into feedstuffs or other products, and they must be plainly labeled.